

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Deposition of Claims

Claims 1-27 remain pending. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are independent claims. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 14. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 to add a step of placing the constructed chain of file identifiers for the initial file system resource in a cache in accordance with the present invention.

Final Rejection

Examiner issued a final rejection in the response dated December 29, 2003. According to the section 706.07(a) of the MPEP, under the present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the examiner introduces new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by the applicant's amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

Examiner in this case cited a rejection based on new grounds. Examiner issued a 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection based on a newly cited reference (U.S. Patent 5,742,817). The examiner did not previously list this reference in any correspondence with the applicant.

In view of section 706.07(a) of the MPEP, applicant submits that the issuance of a final rejection in this office letter dated December 29, 2003 in this case was improper. Applicant requests that Examiner withdraw the final rejection in this case.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Examiner rejects claim 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinkoski (US patent no. 5,742,817). Examiner states that Pinkoski teaches a method for constructing and caching a chain of file identifiers that represent a full path to a file system resource comprising the steps of:

Retrieving a file identifier for the file system resource that corresponds to the processed defined name of the file system resource, this file being the target file identifier in the chain;

Retrieving the file identifier for the next file system resource, said next file resource being the parent for the previous file system resource in the full path

Repeating said retrieving the file identifier for the next file system resource step and said adding the retrieved file identifier to the chain step until a file identifier for each system resource in the full path of the initial file system resource in the chain.

The Examiner further states that Pinkoski does not explicitly teach processing the file system resource's defined name (DN) into a file identifier (FID) and defined name database. The Examiner further states that this step would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertions. With regard to the step of "Retrieving a file identifier for the file system resource that corresponds to the processed defined name of the file system resource, this file being the target file identifier in the chain", the Examiner cites col.4, lines 60-65. This section of Pinkoski does not mention or discuss file identifiers of file identifier chains of the present invention. Rather this section discusses the use of hexadecimal digits to search for entries in a directory. There is no mention of constructing and caching any sort of file identifier chains in this section of Pinkoski.

With regard to the step of "Retrieving the file identifier for the next file system resource, said next file resource being the parent for the previous file system resource in the full path", the Examiner cites col. 5, lines 25-30. Again this cited section does not discuss the retrieving of the file identifier for the next file system resource as recited in the present invention. This section of Pinkoski appears to discuss characteristics of a directory.

With regard to the step of "Repeating said retrieving the file identifier for the next file system resource step and said adding the retrieved file identifier to the chain step until a file identifier for each system resource in the full path of the initial file system resource in the chain", the Examiner cites col. 5, lines 1-31. Again, the discussion in this section of Pinkoski does not discuss or mention the elements of this step of the claim.

In addition, col. 5, lines 45-49 cited by the Examiner as suggesting the repeating step also fails to discuss or mention the contents of that step of the present invention.

Pinkoski describes addressing schemes for files in server environments. The file handle in a call that accesses a file includes a file system identification, a file identification or inode number and a generation number. The present invention involves

constructing and caching a chain of FIDs (File Identifiers) that represent the directory path to a system resource. Applicant does submit that both inventions have some common objectives of making file retrieval easier. As a result, some portions of each method may appear to be similar. However, the specific implementation of each method is different. Furthermore, Pinkoski does not even mention FID chains or caching in its disclosure and description.

Applicant has amended the claims 1 and 14 to include step placing the constructed chain of file identifiers for the initial file system resource in a cache.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion that Pinkoski teaches the above-described steps in Applicant's invention. The locations in Pinkoski cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest creating a file identifier chain or retrieving a file identifier chain.

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. Applicant further believes that the Final rejection was issued prematurely based on section 706.07(a) of the MPEP. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the below listed telephone number. No new fees are believed to be due. However, if any such fees are due, please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 19-04447 (Reference Number AUS920010160US1).

Respectfully Submitted,



Darcell Walker

Reg. No. 34,945

9301 Southwest Freeway
Suite 250
Houston, Texas 77074
713-772-1255

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